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23 DEC 1958

WDZW

Major General David Wade
Commander
1st Missile Division
Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

Dear Dave:

The Space Technology Laboratories, Inc., has completed a study of the use of 65-1 launchers for 117L launches. The results of the study, undertaken at my request, are attached for your information and I would appreciate your views and comments on them.

The STL analysis, which has been verified by my engineers, concludes that:

a. The technical feasibility of modifying 65-1 launchers for 117L use at a nominal cost is established.

b. Range safety for southerly launches to an 83° retrograde orbit is not a serious problem.

c. Southerly launches permit the full range of reconnaissance coverage desired.

d. A decision one year prior to the first desired launch date would permit the establishment of a launch capability for WS 117L use.

e. Stand conversion scope and time would not seriously degrade the ICBM-IOC.

f. Atlas missile conversion and MOD II guidance support present no great problems.

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I would like to have your views on acceptability of our analysis of the proposed use of the 65-1 complex; the acceptability of the range safety implications of the southerly launches, and the first dates when you think one, two and all three of the launches could be made available for WS 117L use.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

O. J. RITLAND
Brig. Gen., USAF
Vice Commander

1 Incl
Stl Study
(in quint)

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